

Determining Measures Using Similarity

The same ideas you used to determine the parts of congruent triangles apply to similar triangles. The statement tells you which **angles are congruent**, and which **sides are similar**. Example: $\triangle RST \sim \triangle MNP$

Angles are easy...they're just congruent.

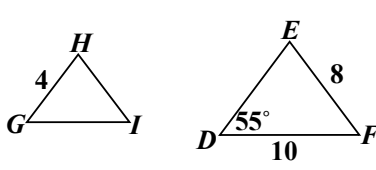
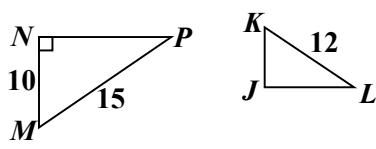
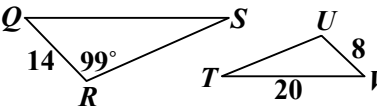
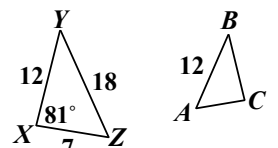
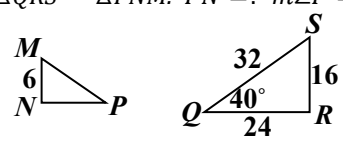
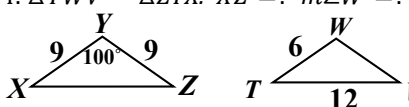
$$\begin{aligned} \triangle RST &\sim \triangle MNP \\ \angle R &\cong \angle M \\ \angle S &\cong \angle N \\ \angle T &\cong \angle P \end{aligned}$$

Sides are **similar**, which means we have to set up fractions. We have to go by the written order, because we don't know **small, medium, and large**.

First triangle in the statement always goes on the top!

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \triangle RST \sim \triangle MNP & \triangle RST \sim \triangle MNP & \triangle RST \sim \triangle MNP \\ RS \text{ is similar to } MN & ST \text{ is similar to } NP & RT \text{ is similar to } MP \\ \frac{RS}{MN} & \frac{ST}{NP} & \frac{RT}{MP} \end{array}$$

Remember, if the sides are similar, then the fractions are equal. They also equal the **scale** fraction, which is sometimes called the "similarity ratio."

<p>EXAMPLE $\triangle DEF \sim \triangle IHG$. $IG = ?$ $m\angle I = ?$</p>  <p>D is I, E is H, and F is G. So, $m\angle I = m\angle D = \boxed{55^\circ}$ Based on the <i>written order</i>, my fractions are:</p> $\frac{DE}{IH} \text{ and } \frac{EF}{HG} \text{ and } \frac{DF}{IG}$ $\frac{8}{IH} \text{ and } \frac{8}{4} \text{ and } \frac{10}{IG}$ $\frac{8}{4} = \frac{10}{IG}$ $8(IG) = 10(4)$ $8(IG) = 40$ $IG = \boxed{5}$	<p>1. $\triangle JKL \sim \triangle NMP$. $JK = ?$ $m\angle J = ?$</p> 	<p>2. $\triangle QRS \sim \triangle VUT$. $QS = ?$ $m\angle U = ?$</p> 
<p>EXAMPLE $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle ZYX$. $BC = ?$ $m\angle C = ?$</p>  <p>A is Z, B is Y, and C is X. So, $m\angle C = m\angle X = \boxed{81^\circ}$ The fractions are:</p> $\frac{AB}{ZY} \text{ and } \frac{BC}{YX} \text{ and } \frac{AC}{ZX}$ $\frac{12}{18} \text{ and } \frac{BC}{12} \text{ and } \frac{AC}{7}$ <p>I'm looking for BC, so that's what I use.</p> $\frac{12}{18} = \frac{BC}{12} \rightarrow \text{reduce} \rightarrow \frac{2}{3} = \frac{BC}{12}$ $2(12) = BC(3)$ $24 = BC(3)$ $8 = BC \rightarrow \text{Sym. Prop} \rightarrow BC = \boxed{8}$	<p>3. $\triangle QRS \sim \triangle PNM$. $PN = ?$ $m\angle P = ?$</p> 	<p>4. $\triangle TWV \sim \triangle ZYX$. $XZ = ?$ $m\angle W = ?$</p> 

EXAMPLE
 $\triangle MNP \sim \triangle RQP$. $MN = 3$,
 $NP = 6$, and $QP = 8$. $RQ = ?$

M is R , N is Q , and P is P .
 The fractions are:

$$\frac{MN}{RQ} \text{ and } \frac{NP}{QP} \text{ and } \frac{MP}{RP}$$

$$\frac{3}{RQ} \text{ and } \frac{6}{8} \text{ and } \frac{MP}{RP}$$

$$\frac{3}{RQ} = \frac{6}{8} \rightarrow \text{reduce} \rightarrow \frac{3}{RQ} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$3(4) = 3(RQ)$$

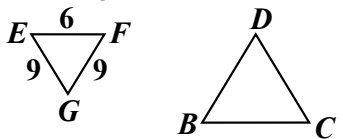
$$12 = 3(RQ)$$

$$4 = RQ \rightarrow \text{Sym. Prop} \rightarrow RQ = \boxed{4}$$

5. $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle FGH$. $GH = 18$,
 $AB = 4$, and $BC = 12$. $FH = ?$

6. $\triangle RAT \sim \triangle BAN$. $RT = 10$,
 $RA = 15$, and $BN = 6$. $BA = ?$

EXAMPLE
 $\triangle ABCD \sim \triangle EFG$. If the similarity ratio
 (or scale) is $\frac{4}{3}$, what is CD ?



The fractions are:

SCALE	$\frac{BC}{EF}$	$\frac{CD}{FG}$	$\frac{BD}{EG}$
$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{BC}{6}$	$\frac{CD}{9}$	$\frac{BD}{9}$

Since I want CD , I'll use that fraction.

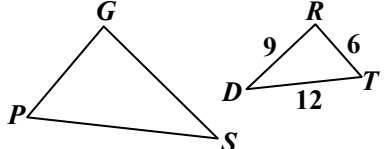
$$\frac{4}{3} = \frac{CD}{9}$$

$$4(9) = CD(3)$$

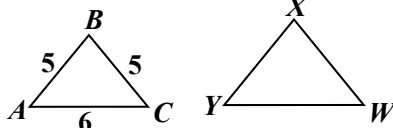
$$36 = CD(3)$$

$$12 = CD \rightarrow \text{Sym. Prop.} \rightarrow CD = \boxed{12}$$

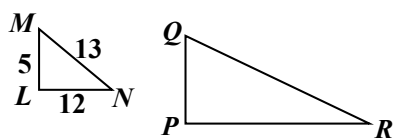
7. $\triangle DRT \sim \triangle SGP$. If the similarity ratio (or scale) is $\frac{3}{10}$, what is GP ?



8. $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle WXY$. If the similarity ratio (or scale) is $\frac{6}{5}$, what is WY ?



EXAMPLE
 $\triangle LMN \sim \triangle PQR$. If the similarity ratio
 (or scale) is $\frac{2}{5}$, what is PR ?



The fractions are:

SCALE	$\frac{LM}{PQ}$	$\frac{MN}{QR}$	$\frac{LN}{PR}$
$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{5}{PQ}$	$\frac{13}{QR}$	$\frac{12}{PR}$

Since I want PR , I'll use that fraction.

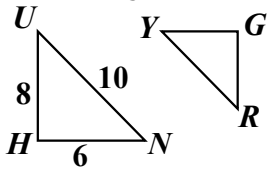
$$\frac{2}{5} = \frac{12}{PR}$$

$$2(PR) = 12(5)$$

$$2(PR) = 60$$

$$PR = \boxed{30}$$

9. $\triangle HUN \sim \triangle GRY$. If the similarity ratio (or scale) is $\frac{5}{3}$, what is RY ?



10. $\triangle FOR \sim \triangle MED$. If the similarity ratio (or scale) is $\frac{7}{4}$, what is RY ?

